

Amendments to the Specification

Page 25, lines 14-18, please rewrite as follows:

The physical properties of ~~ht~~ the silica cake obtained from the reaction slurry through the steps of filtration, washing and dewatering were as follows: water content, 89.0 wt%; pH of the 5% dispersion, electric 6.4; electric conductivity, 136 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$; and n-value, 2.5. The BET specific surface area of the silica was 265 m^2/g .

Page 25, lines 21-27, please rewrite as follows:

5.9 Litters of 0.1 mol/L aqueous sodium hydroxide solution was charged in a reaction tank as an initial reaction liquid, and while being mixed with propeller type stirring blades, heated to an elevated temperature of 93°C. To this initial reaction liquid, a sodium silicate solution (SiO_2 concentration, 180 g/L; molar ~~ration~~ ratio $x=3.4$) and sulfuric acid (concentration, 221 g/L) were added simultaneously at the respective rates of 42 mL/min. and 12 mL/min., over 40 minutes.

Page 34, lines 19-23, please rewrite as follows:

A coating liquid was prepared in the manner similar to Example 18, except that the cationic polymer-modified precipitated silica dispersion was replaced with the one as obtained in ~~Corporate~~ Comparative Example 9. Physical properties of the resulting coating liquid were as shown in Table. 1

Page 34, lines 26-30, please rewrite as follows:

A coating liquid was prepared in the manner similar to Example 18, except that the cationic polymer-modified precipitated silica dispersion was replaced with the one as obtained in ~~Corporate~~ Comparative Example 10. Physical properties of the resulting coating liquid were as shown in Table 1.